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Johnson Consults Aids on Viet War

By Tom Lambert
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WASHINGTON.

President Johnson, summoned his ranking diplomatic, military and intelligence advisers to the White House yesterday for a review of the heightening Viet Nam war, and scheduled a National Security Council meeting today.

Ambassador Maxwell Taylor, who arrived here Monday from Saigon, sat in on yesterday's White House meeting, and will attend the Security Council session today. Others at yesterday's discussions were Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, Central Intelligence Agency Director William F. Raborn Jr. and McGeorge Bundy, presidential adviser for national security affairs.

There was no indication of what aspects of the crisis were discussed yesterday or will be reviewed today. But Ambassador Taylor is known to have

talked with Administration officials here about the governmental crisis in Saigon and the mounting Communist guerrilla offensive in the highland plateau north of that capital.

Gov. Taylor is understood to have said that the next few months may witness increased fighting. Some officials here are predicting the step-up in combat will mean further American involvement in ground clashes with the guerrillas.

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D., Conn., proposed that the Senate Foreign Relations Com-

mittee dispatch a bipartisan fact-finding commission to Viet Nam to appraise political and military developments.

In a long speech-report on his recent trip to the Far East, Sen. Dodd also laid into the press for its reporting on Asian and Viet Nam affairs.

"Taken in its totality, American press coverage of Viet Nam has created a public image of the situation in that country that is in certain respects inaccurate, in other respects imbalanced, in still other respects grossly inadequate or even blank," Sen. Dodd asserted.

That drew demurrers from Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, Mont., and several of his colleagues, including Sen. Jacob Javits, R., N. Y.

Sen. Mansfield said reporters are not perfect, but added "on the whole they are a good, sound hard-working lot—digging for information and relaying it to the American people."

Sen. Javits said more forcefully that the press coverage on Viet Nam is "excellent."

"We shouldn't rule out the opposition or the press," Sen. Javits continued, declaring "it keeps us on our toes and tests our policy."